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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,000	08/31/2001	Michitomo Shibutani	H0131T	9295

7590 08/06/2003

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EXAMINER

ASSAF, FAYEZ G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2872	

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

NC

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/943,000	SHIBUTANI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Fayez G. Assaf	2872

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 August 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Species 3: Claims 1-10 and 13 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election **without** traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 11 and 12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fingler et al. (US 6,435,727 B1).

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Regarding claim 1, Fingler discloses an optical cable adapter or connector to which a plurality of optical cable plugs (7's in Fig. 1) are detachably connected (line 18 of Fig. 3), comprising, a plurality of adapter or connector sections (6's of Fig. 1) integrally formed and arranged in a plane of a panel (plane connecting 20 and 21 in Fig. 4), a plurality of plugging cavities provided in said adapter or connector sections, one for each section, so as to extend at an acute angle with said plane for receiving said optical cable plugs (see Fig. 1, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 2, Fingler discloses the adapter or connector sections being arranged in a stepped fashion (see Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3, Fingler discloses the adapter or the connector sections being separated by partition walls (i.e. any area extending between connector sections, see Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 4, Fingler discloses the plugging cavities being adapted to receive two-prong plugs (line 13 to line 16 of Col. 3).

Regarding claim 5, Fingler discloses a pair of flange sections (20 and 21 of Fig. 4) obliquely extending from opposite ends of said adapter or connector for securing said adapter.

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Regarding claim 6, Fingler discloses a pair of adapter members or connector members (5's of Fig. 1) attached to a panel.

Claims 6, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ngo (US 6,572,272 B2).

Regarding claim 6, Ngo discloses an optical cable adapter or connector to which a plurality of optical plugs (A and B of Fig. 1) are detachably connected, comprising a pair of adapter members or connector members (12 and 14 of Fig. 1), attached to a panel (2 of Fig. 1), and a plurality of plugging cavities provided in the adapter members or connector members such that said plugging cavities are inclined with respect to said panel (see Fig. 1, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 7, Ngo discloses the adapter members being joined together such that respective front faces (faces of adapter members facing 44 of Fig. 3) thereof abut on each other.

Regarding claim 8, Ngo discloses each of the adapter members or connector members comprising a flange section (52 and 54 of Fig. 3) provided at a certain angle with respect to said plugging cavities.

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Regarding claim 10, Ngo discloses the adapter members being inserted into an opening provided in the panel to be attached to the panel (see Fig. 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest **each** of said plugging cavities comprising a pair of plug locks opposed to each other as set forth in the claimed combination.

Claim 13 is allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest the periphery of an opening of said panel being retained between said panel abutment member and adapter lock tabs such that said adapter or connector is attached and inclined to said panel as set forth in the claimed combination.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FAYEZ G.

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Assaf whose telephone number is (703) 306-5526. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cassandra Spyrou can be reached on (703) 308-1687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Fayez G. Assaf
Examiner
Art Unit 2872

FA
July 27, 2003

Fayez Assaf